



## Yom Kippur War

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### V. CONSEQUENCES OF THE WAR

Although the war yielded no immediate territorial concessions, it had many far-reaching effects on the wider Arab-Israeli conflict. While Arab casualties were far greater than Israeli casualties, both sides claimed victory. The Arab forces had proved that they could launch a successful coordinated attack. With their initial gains, they shattered the myth of Israel's invincibility that had persisted since the 1967 war. Meanwhile, despite significant early losses, Israel had successfully regrouped in a matter of days, pushing the Arab forces back beyond the 1967 borders.

While the war did not affect Syria's close alignment with the USSR and strong opposition to the United States and Israel, it initiated drastic changes in Egypt's foreign relations. Kissinger's newly developing relationship with Sadat reduced Soviet influence over Egypt and brought the country closer to the United States. Each successful agreement also generated trust between Israel and Egypt. Both of these developments established the foundation for the US-brokered Camp David Accords in 1978, which led to a peace treaty between Egypt and Israel in 1979. However, Egypt's improved relations with the United States and Israel also led to its separation and isolation from inter-Arab affairs in the 1980s. Meanwhile, the diplomatic successes of the United States in the aftermath of the war gave it a position of mediator and confidant of Arabs and Israelis alike in future negotiations.

The 1973 war also marked the first successful use of oil as a political weapon in the Arab-Israeli conflict. From October 1973 to November 1974 the oil-producing Arab countries maintained an embargo on oil exports to Western nations friendly to Israel, causing petrol shortages and inflated oil prices. The embargo had a long-term negative effect on the economies of most Western nations.

Finally, the war caused internal problems in Israel. The Israeli military's lack of readiness called into question the capabilities of the country's leaders. The results of an ensuing investigation were highly critical of the military, prompting the resignations of Israeli prime minister, Golda Meir, and defence minister, Moshe Dayan.

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